

IN THE ABSTRACT

Please amend the Abstract as follows:

A post-treatment ~~product and~~ process for making a water-resistant polymeric coating composition or a strongly-swellable polymeric gel includes providing a stable, aqueous two-phase polymeric composition by the steps of forming a reaction mixture in a reaction vessel which includes a water-soluble vinyl monomer, optionally with one or more water-soluble comonomers, a first amount of a crosslinking agent, and water, heating the mixture, then periodically adding a predetermined amount of an initiator, and polymerizing at about 30-130°C, optionally removing the resultant two-phase composition from the reaction vessel, adding a predetermined amount of an additional crosslinker or proteinaceous compound thereto, optionally coating the mixture onto a support, and optionally heating to further polymerize ~~or process~~ the mixture.